HBLMP

WHOA!

RIT-CHAN?

I'M HOME.

STEP STEP

...

THOSE ARE...

...USA-KUN AND MAYUMI'S VOICES...

!!!

!?

SORRY...

BUY ME SOME SNACKS FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
ALSO MAGAZINES.
USA-KUN.
SHE DIDN'T HOLD BACK...
I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.
I CAN'T RIGHT NOW.
YOU'LL GO RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
I'LL GO LATER...
OR I'LL SEND RIT-CHAN THIS EDITED PHOTO OF YOU I MADE FOR FUN.
COULD YOU NOT MAKE IMAGES THAT WOULD DESTROY ME FOR FUN?

TEXT: LOINCLOTH PRINCES OF SUMO KINGDOM

DAMN IT, WHY ME...
GET THIS MONTH'S EN-EN, OKAY?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BUY THIS AWKWARD THING?
en-en
SEX
TEXT: EVEN WOMEN WANT TO KNOW
I'LL GET IT OVER WITH AND GO HOME.
THEN I'LL THINK ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD DO NEXT...
I LOVE IT...
...WHEN THINGS GET INTERESTING.
OH.
SEX

I-I MEANT TO BUY OURS, BUT I GOT THE WRONG MAGAZINE!
RETURN!
ARE YOU SHOPPING, TOO, SEN-PAI?
SAYA-KA-SAN ASKED ME TO GET SOME-THING.
WHAT?!
ME, TOO. JUST HOW MUCH DOES SHE NEED TO BUY?
I'M FINE.
THAT'S A LOT OF STUFF.
WANT ME TO GET YOU A BASKET...
WALK
スィ...

SEN-PAI?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
ARE YOU MAD?
...
THEN SAY SOME-THING.
COME ON, SENPAI.

BEEP
ピッ
お会計
150円です
YOUR TOTAL IS 150 YEN.
SENPAI...
ありがとうございました
THANK YOU
RING-A-LING
ピロン♪
SIGH
はぁ
AN E-MAIL...
WHA..
YOU IGNORE ME, BUT YOU'LL CHECK YOUR E-MAIL.
TWITCH
ビク
WHOA.

THAT WAS AWFUL...
I...
I SOUNDED PATHETIC.
AND WHAT I SAID
...
...
TURN
DASH
SENPAI?!
I'M SORRY, SENPAI!
THAT WAS...
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU MAD, ANYWAY?
SHE'S IGNORING ME.
IT'S NO USE.
I SAID WAIT!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? IT'S GETTING ANNOYING...
MY HEAD IS SPIN-NING.
IN FACT...
IT'S DEPRESS-ING!
SERI-OUSLY!
...
FLINE
DAMN, I'M LAME.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY,
BUT...
FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE...
THEN JUST SAY IT!
...WHY DON'T YOU TRY SCREAMING?
...ME...
WHAT?

DOOM
HATE...
DON'T HATE...

DON'T HATE ME.
I... I'D NEVER HATE YOU!
IDIOT!

HEY.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN IDIOT?!
SORRY, I WASN'T THINKING.
!?
YOU WERE MAD.
AND...
!?
IT WAS JUST SO UNEXPECTED
WHY WOULD YOU THINK I'D HATE YOU?
YOU TOLD MAYUMI-SAN THAT
YOU THOUGHT I WAS ANNOY-ING.
YOU!...
WHAT?!
YOU WERE LISTEN-ING?!
BUT WHY WOULD YOU ASSUME THAT? YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEANT BY PRETENDING OR STEPPING STONES, BUT YOU SOUNDED DIS-GUSTED BY MY POOR SOCIAL SKILLS.
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! THAT'S ALL YOU HEARD?!
I'M NOT AS
GOOD AS SHIINA-SAN.

WHY DID SHE MENTION SHIINA?
I'VE KNOWN THAT FOR-EVER.
I WOULDN'T START HATING YOU FOR IT NOW—
YOU WOULD.
SAYS WHO?!
BUT YOU DID HATE ME.
WHAT?!
I COULD NEVER HATE YOU!
YOU DID.
ON VALEN-TINE'S DAY.
!?!?
OH.
OH.
SEE!
YEAH...
SEE! YOU WERE MAD!
YOU WERE DIS-GUS-TED!
YOU WERE UPSET
AND SAID YOU DON'T GET IT.

BUT...
I WAS TOLD NOT TO DO STUFF
LIKE READ WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
I REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT
BUT I DON'T HATE YOU.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
I KNEW IT!
WELL, I... I REALLY WAS ANNOYED...
I WAS REALLY CONFUSED...
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T NEED ME SINCE YOU COULD DISCUSS BOOKS WITH TAKAHASHI-SENPAI NOW.
WHY WOULD YOU ASSUME THAT?
!?
SO I TRIED... TO BE CAREFUL.
BUT NOTHING GOES RIGHT.
OH.
THE OTHER DAY...
I WON'T READ OR TALK ABOUT BOOKS
SORRY, I...
I WAS CONFUSED.

I HAD HIM CHOOSE A BOOK
YOU WOULD ENJOY, SO I COULD TALK TO YOU.

BUT YOU THOUGHT I "DIDN'T NEED YOU."
WAIT...
I'M NOT VERY PER-CEP-TIVE.
HOLD ON A SECOND!
YOU PICKED THAT LIGHT NOVEL FOR ME?
YEAH.
BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TAKAHASHI-SENPAI CHOOSE A BOOK FOR ME?
THE "CROSS-DRESSING DETECTIVE" SERIES.
WHAT?

GLOW
ぽあっ
DID YOU REMEMBER?
OH!
THE NEW "CROSS-DRESSING DETECTIVE" VOLUME COMES OUT THIS FALL.
SOUNDS FAMILIAR...
THE FIRST BOOK YOU READ.
THE BOOK TAKAHASHI-SENPAI RECOMMENDED.
TAKAHASHI-KUN STARTED WITH CROSS-DRESSING DETECTIVE, TOO.
HE'S A PRETTY BIG READER NOW, THOUGH.
!
THE ONE WITH THE MANIC ASSISTANT...
YEAH, THAT ONE!
HUH?
TAKAHASHI-KUN?!
ME?!
THE FIRST BOOK I READ?

WAIT
SO I THOUGHT HE'D HAVE BETTER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOU.
HOLD ON.
I'VE STARTED READING IT.
I THINK YOU'LL LIKE A LOT OF THE CHARACTERS.
I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY IT.
DOES THAT MEAN...
I KNOW DEMON HUNTER DOESN'T LEAVE MUCH TIME FOR YOU TO READ.
I DON'T WANT TO FORCE IT ON YOU...
AND THE REASON SHE'S TRYING TO CHANGE...
TURN
UM... I'VE BEEN THINKING OF PICKING UP DEMON HUNTER, TOO.
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR A PSP.

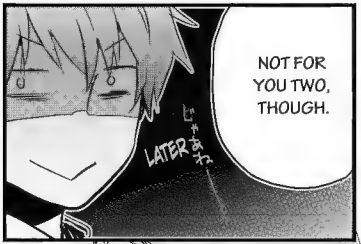
IT'S ALL ABOUT ME.
SORRY, SENPAI.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT I'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY.
SINCE YOU SUDDENLY BECAME FRIENDS WITH TAKAHASHI-SENPAI,
I WAS LONELY.
YOU'VE BEEN HAVING IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS AND E-MAILING HIM.
SHE...
SHE DROPPED A BOMBSHELL ON ME...
!?
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE CRUMPLE
I TOLD YOU TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH HIM.
BUT I'M NARROW-MINDED.
SORRY.

IT'S WEIRD WHEN YOU'RE NOT READ-ING.
IN MY CASE, ANYWAY
俺の場合は
IT MAKES ME SULK, SO I'D RATHER YOU ACT NORMAL.
SULK...?
WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY FEEL THE OPPOSITE?
MAYBE OTHER PEOPLE, BUT NOT ME.
IT FEELS NATURAL NOW.
IT'S CALM ING
AFTER ALL, WE...
WHEN WE GET BACK,
CAN I BORROW THAT BOOK?
HAVE CHANGED TOGETH ER.
DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR ME.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, TOO.
WITH YOUR USUAL SELF.

OKAY.
JUST NOW, YOU MENTIONED E-MAILING TAKAHASHI-KUN.
UM...
TAKAHASHI-SENPAI.

SMILE
SURE.
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
SMILE
YESTERDAY I BORROWED THE BOOK
YOU RECOMMENDED FOR ME. THANKS.
ALSO, THANKS FOR HELPING ME AT THE KARAOKE PLACE.
APPARENTLY KAWAI-SENPAI WAS SURPRISED TO RECEIVE HER FIRST E-MAIL FROM YOU, THOUGH.
YOU ACTED LIKE YOU E-MAIL HER ALL THE TIME...
SURE.
I WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY NERVOUS.
REALLY?
FUME
I GET NERVOUS AROUND KAWAI.
THANKS FOR GIVING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO E-MAIL HER.
NO PROBLEM.
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE UP.
KAWAI SEEMED DOWN LATELY, SO I'M GLAD.

I'M ROOTING FOR KAWAI.


NOT FOR YOU TWO, THOUGH.
LATER
じゃあね

HUH?
THANK YOU...
NO PROB-LEM.

SHE GAVE ME HER ADDRESS,
I TAKE FOREVER TO NOTICE AND RESPOND, AND I NEVER E-MAIL FIRST
SORRY
BUT SAID SHE DIDN'T LIKE E-MAILING PEOPLE.
JEEZ, SOUNDS LIKE HER.
I COULDN'T E-MAIL HER.
HEY.
YOU'RE A MEAN ONE.
REALLY?
I THOUGHT YOU E-MAILED EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME, TOO.

MY RECOMMENDATION
...
IS PRETTY HEAVY FOR A LIGHT NOVEL.
HIROSE, YOU'RE NOT SO NICE YOURSELF.
I GUESS THAT MAKES HIM SPECIAL.
THEY E-MAIL EACH OTHER. LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL
I'M NOT AS BAD AS YOU.

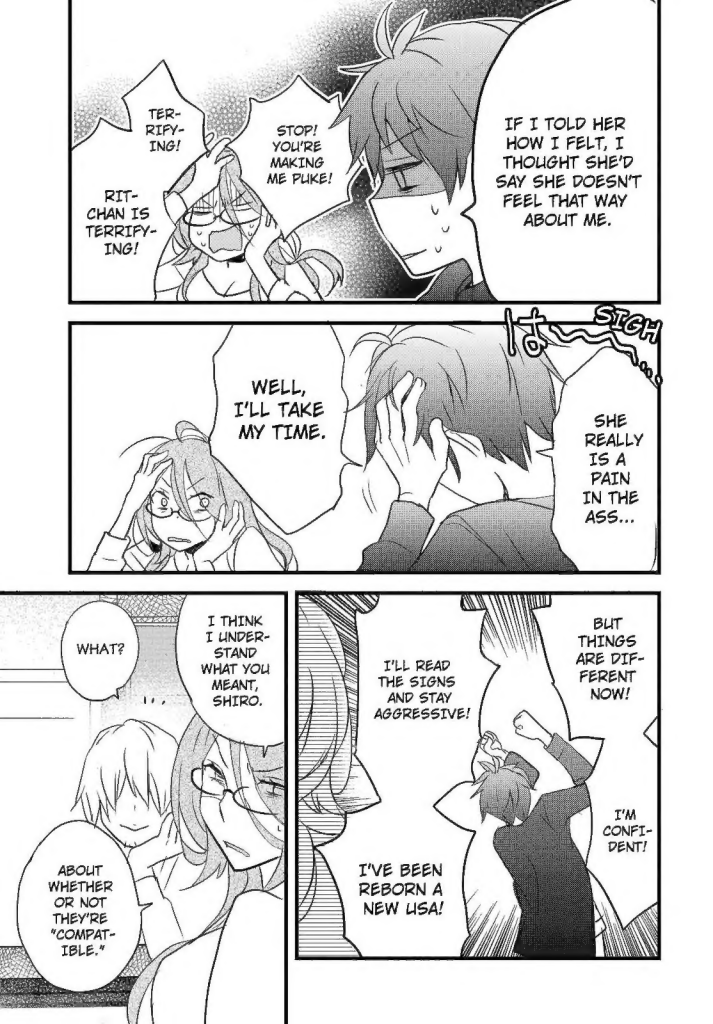
BUT IT'S NOT TOO HARD TO READ, SO "USA-KUN" SHOULD HAVE AN EASY TIME WITH IT.
I DON'T WANT MAEMURA TO OVERHEAR US AGAIN.
YOU CAN'T BLAME ME...
HE'LL PROBABLY GET INTO IT.
REALLY?
I HOPE HE DOES...
FOR BEING A LITTLE NASTY.

BE-
SIDES...
I THINK I'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
YOU'RE A HANDFUL

YOU'RE GROSS.
YOU'VE SURPASSED ANNOYING TO BECOME GROSS.

I THINK
I WAS LONELY, TOO.
I THOUGHT YOU PREFERRED HER.
THAT WE WERE DRIFTING APART.
AS FRIENDS.
BUT SENPAI...

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
AFTER THAT IDIOTIC AND ANNOYING PUBESCENT CONVERSATION,
YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS? ARE YOU AN INSECT? A WORM?


IF I TOLD HER HOW I FELT, I THOUGHT SHE'D SAY SHE DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME.
STOP! YOU'RE MAKING ME PUKE!
TER-RIFY-ING!
RIT-CHAN IS TERRIFY-ING!
SIGH
SHE REALLY IS A PAIN IN THE ASS...
WELL, I'LL TAKE MY TIME.
BUT THINGS ARE DIF-FERENT NOW!
I'LL READ THE SIGNS AND STAY AGGRESSIVE!
I'M CONFI-DENT!
I'VE BEEN REBORN A NEW USA!
I THINK I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEANT, SHIRO.
WHAT?
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE "COMPAT-IBLE."

IF HE CAN LOOK THAT STUPIDLY IN LOVE WHILE REMEMBERING WHAT A PAIN SHE CAN BE...
...THEY MUST BE COMPAT-IBLE.
I HATE IT.
I'LL TAKE THAT SWEET BUD-DING LOVE
AND DO EVERY-THING I CAN TO TRAMPLE ALL OVER IT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SUPPORT US?!
I ONLY ROOT FOR MYSELF.
NOW I CAN CRUSH YOU WITHOUT RESERVA-TIONS.
I LOVE WHEN THINGS GET INTERESTING.
I'LL STIR THINGS UP BY SENDING THAT EDITED PHOTO OF YOU TO RIT-CHAN.
AAARGH!